



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police Charge Mt. Airy Man with Homicide, Driving Under the Influence

The 20-year-old driver who caused a collision in Dayton over the weekend resulting in the death of a passenger was charged Sunday afternoon after being released from Shock Trauma. Jose Rosendo Algomedas-Santiago, of Liberty Road in Mt. Airy, was charged with homicide by motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, among other charges.

The collision occurred around 3:55 a.m. March 1 on Md. 32 when the car Algomedas-Santiago was driving, a 1995 Volkswagen Jetta, lost control and crossed the double-yellow center line, striking a Dodge 2500 Ram pick-up truck on the opposite side of the road. An unbelted passenger ejected from the Jetta during the collision, Gilberto Garcia Vasquez, of unknown age, of Westminster, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Based on evidence obtained during the investigation, police believe Algomedas-Santiago was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash. Investigators are not releasing the specific details about the evidence while the investigation continues.

Two additional passengers in the Jetta, Gonzalo Gutierrez-Molina, 25, of Westminster, and Victor Guitierrez-Almeida, 21, of unknown address, were listed in serious and critical conditions respectively shortly after the collision. At the time of this release, police do not have information on the victims' current conditions.

The driver of the Dodge pick-up truck, Eric Brent Fratz, 42, of Accident, was not injured.

Algomedas-Santiago faces a total of 10 charges, including the homicide charge, as well manslaughter by motor vehicle, driving without a license and a series of DUI offenses. He is currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center on \$1 million bond.

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